

## **2014-2015 End of Year Report FSBA Legislative Committee**

**Chair:** Carol Cook

**Vice Chair:** April Griffin

**Members:** *(See attached)*

### **Dates of meetings:**

October 24, 2014 – Debate and Adoption of 2015 Legislative Platform

December 3, 2014 – Advocacy Training (Website Tour) and Federal Relations Training

March 11-12, 2015 – Day in the Legislature Conference

March 30, 2015 – Proposed amendments to FSBA Bylaws and Procedures

### **Main actions taken/accomplishments during year:**

The work of the FSBA Legislative Committee began shortly after the 2014 Annual Summer Conference with the development of our 2015 Platform. In our ongoing effort to streamline the Platform development process, this year we created an electronic form on the FSBA website that allowed our members to submit their platform proposals on-line. The on-line format was offered to members in addition to our existing format. This initial on-line submission process was not entirely successful so we worked with staff to improve the on-line submission format for next year. In September, the Platform Committee reviewed all submitted proposals to check that they were of state-wide interest and were consistent with established FSBA policies and positions. In October, the Legislative Committee adopted, and the Association later ratified, a streamlined Legislative Platform that focused on five priorities: Assessment & Accountability; Funding; Facilities; School Choice Options; and Local Authority.

Prior to the start of the Legislative Session, the Committee worked with FSBA staff to update and reopen our easy-access FSBA website page – 2015 Session Resource Center – that consolidates legislative session information, including Daily Updates, weekly Video Updates, budget and bill information, and legislative session advocacy tools. After the Session began, our Day in the Legislature Conference welcomed more than 140 school board members, superintendents, district staff, and others. Attendees were given a legislative briefing on the legislative issues that were under active consideration and then visited with their legislative delegations to advocate FSBA's positions on these bills. Some concerns were expressed about our 2014 Day in the Legislature Conference being scheduled so early during the Legislative Session. This was due to the rescheduling of the NSBA Annual Conference and is not expected to be a problem in the future.

We are pleased to note that we were able to help block enactment of some bills FSBA opposed and make some progress in achieving our legislative priorities during the 2015 Legislative Session, but a great deal of work remains to be done on the education budget in the current Special Session. When the Special Session concludes, we will prepare a separate report listing the bills and budget items that relate to our priorities and the legislative outcome of these issues.

In other activities this year, the committee recommended several amendments to the FSBA Bylaws and Procedures Manual to clarify and update provisions relating to the designation of Legislative Committee members, the Platform adoption process, and the title of our Federal Relations Network Subcommittee (deleting "Network" from the title). These proposals are among those that will be considered for final approval during this annual conference.

**Unfinished business to be forwarded to next Legislative Committee Chair:**

1. Transition to revised Platform development process with regard to on-line submission form and adoption of any emergency items during December Joint Conference.
2. Transition to new timeframe for designation of Legislative Committee members.